THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) During the period April-October, 95 the energy requirement in Uttar Pradesh (including eight hill districts) was 2230S Million Units against which the availability was 19756 Million Units, which represents a shortage of 11.4%. Supply of power to different regions of State is a responsibility of State/ State Electricity Boards.

((c) and (d) The distribution schemes are prepared by SEB and schemes costing less than Rs. 100 crores are not required to be submitted to the CEA for approval and these are processed in the States.

Resentment amongst retired Government Servants

1443. SHRI O.P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether resentment is brewing amongst the retired Government servants for not giving the benefit of merger of some part of dearness allowance with the emoluments for purposes of payment of gratuity as has appeared in 'Action Line' of Hindustan Times dated 20th November, 1995;

(b) if so, the justification for depriving those Government servants who retired before 1st April, 1995; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to extend the benefit to such employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c)The Fifth Central Pay Commission, in its interim report had recommended that dearness allowance, linked to the average All India Consumer Price Index (AICPI) 1201.66 as indicated below may be treated as dearness pay for reckoning emoluments for the purpose of retirement gratuity and death gratuity under the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules, 1972:—

Pay Range	Dearness allowance to be added to pay for calculating gratuity
Basic Pay upto Rs. 3,500/-	97% of pay.
Basic Pay above Rs. 3,500/- p.m. & upto Rs. 6,000/- p.m.	73% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 3,395/-
Basic pay above Rs. 6,000/- p.m.	63% of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 4,380/-

The Commission had also recommended that the ceiling on gratuity be enhanced from Rs. 1.00 lakh to Rs. 2.50 lakhs in the case of the Central Government employees who retire or die on or after 1st April, 1995.

The Government accepted the recommendations of the Pay Commission. No proposal is under consideration of the Government to extend the above benefits to the Central Government employees who retired prior to 1st April, 1995.

Major Overhaul of Power Sector

1444. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the views expressed by the representative of the World Bank in India, which appeared in the Times of India dated 23rd July, 1995, regarding completed restructuring of the Power Sector including privatisation and the present scenario of supplying free power to agriculture sector or collecting nominal tariff which would add to the present fiscal problem;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereon; and

(c) what are the proper facilities to be created by Government for servicing of foreign investment in power sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) and (b) The World Bank has from time to time raised various issues regarding the power policy of Government. These *inter-alia* include levy of appropriate tariff for supplies to the Agriculture Sector. Suggestions of the World

Bank are given due consideration.

(c) The private power policy, *inter alia,* provides for a return on investment subject to achievement of certain performance standards. Government has also streamlined procedures, modalities for supply and transportation of fuel and helped standardise sale and purchase of power.

Non-availability of daily flights from Amritsar

1445. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN:
Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no daily flight from Amritsar to different destinations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when, Amritsar will become international airport and daily flights will be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM(SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) Amritsar is connected to Delhi and Srinagar by Indian Airlines flights, three times a week; in addition, for the convenience of International Passengers, as a part of Hub and Spoke Operations of Air India, two flights a week connect Amritsar to various international destinations via Delhi. Due to crew constraints, Indian Airlines is not in a position to operate daily service to Amritsar and there is no proposal to declare Amritsar as an International Airport, at present.

New Schemes for Weavers in Punjab

1446. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any new schemes and programmes for weavers in Punjab for the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) what effective measures government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (d) The Schemes being implemented by Government of India for the handloom sector are generally not state specific. All State Governments and Union Territories are eligible for assistance under these Scheme. The Weavers of Punjab can avail assistance under all the ongoing Schemes in handloom sector. Central assistance is released on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments.

Delay in flights of Indian Airlines

1447. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Airlines flights are mostly delayed nowadays and the passengers are preferring private airlines; and

(b) if so, which are the flights delayed in the months of October, November and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI' AZAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 1881 flights were delayed or cancelled out of a total 6543 flights during October, 1995 due to adverse weather, airport restrictions, technical snags etc. Statistics for the month of November, 1995 is being compiled.

Foreign Exchange earned by Air India

1448. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *Alias* MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) how much foreign exchange went out of the country through Foreign Airlines during the period 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995 airline-wise; and

(b) how much foreign exchange was earned by Air India during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROS AD PAL): (a) The information may kindly be seen in the enclosed statement *(See* below)

(b) The foreign exchange earned by Air India during 1st April, 1994 to 31st March, 1995 is Rs. 604.93 crores.